

Connections

Celebrating Programs Through Partnerships
Winter 2003

City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor



From the Superintendent

New Year Brings Big Changes

I enjoyed visiting with many of you at the ARC Annual Meeting, and I want to congratulate ARC's new officers. I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

The new year brings many changes and opportunities for growth.

Budget: By now you've heard about the City's recent fiscal challenges. The 2003-2004 budget reflects a substantial shortfall in revenues, prompting us to cut administrative costs and become more efficient as an organization. Because of the size of the deficit, we could not avoid reducing some services to the public and raising some fees—though our basic mission and core programs remain intact. When we did cut back on hours at community centers, we chose the days and times of least use. (See box on back page for new community center hours.)

Advisory council renewal: Also this year, Parks and the Associated Recreation Council (ARC) began a major effort to renew and revitalize our 37 advisory councils. As part of this process, we've asked all council members to re-apply for their positions, and we've established a new "Baseline Standards Checklist" for council membership and proceedings. And to help each council strengthen, diversify and stabilize its membership, we have begun a citywide membership drive. We are also in the process of clarifying our conflict-of-interest policy.

Golf management changes: Another big issue that involves ARC is a proposed change in management of the City's three 18-hole golf courses at Jackson Park, Jefferson Park and West Seattle. By mutual agreement between Seattle Parks and Municipal Golf of Seattle (MGS or Seattle Golf), the Department plans to end the City's management agreement with MGS, unify management under a single golf director, the recently hired Andy Soden, and temporarily turn over the financial reins to ARC. We are also establishing another advisory council called the Emerald City Golf Advisory Council. Our ultimate goal is to get Seattle golfers to return in large numbers to our great public courses.

If you have any questions on these or other issues, please call Bill Keller, Associated Recreation Council, at (206) 684-7083.

Ken Bounds, Superintendent



Special Programs Council Provides Passionate Advocacy

Besides the advisory councils affiliated with our 24 community centers, several councils are organized around particular citywide interests such as senior adults, sports, and special programs.

The Special Populations Council focuses on Department programs and activities that serve people with physical and developmental disabilities. The strength of this particular advisory council, says Special Populations Programs coordinator Donna Iverson, is its shared passion of its advocacy—members come out in force to testify at City Council if programs are in danger of losing funding—and its diversity of membership. Among its 11 members, are administrators from a state institution (Fircrest), a group home, and a community organization; people who have worked with physical disabilities

and developmental disabilities; and people who are long-time users of Parks special programs.

The council also raises funds to help pay for people who can't afford fees for programs or camps, or entry fees for Special Olympics tournaments or other sports activities. In 2002, the council raised about \$15,000 through a "Swimalong" at Meadowbrook Pool, a golf tournament, the selling of Entertainment Books, and direct donations.

Perhaps most important, is the group's ongoing support and advice. "They are a wonderful sounding board for me and my staff," says Donna Iverson. "They are very well connected in the disability community and know all the issues. I rely on them all the time for advice."

Partnerships for Teen Programs

The Department has formed partnerships with three key community organizations to develop new teen programs and provide staff and volunteer training. The partnerships will help Teen Development Leaders at selected community centers expand program offerings and build a base of volunteer support.



We signed contracts with the Washington State University 4-H Foundation to provide life skills; the Austin Foundation to provide a health and fitness program; and EarthCorps to provide hands-on environmental stewardship. The organizations will train Teen Development leaders and actually recruit and train a half dozen or so volunteers, who

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New Community Center Hours

As a result of City budget cuts for 2003-2004, we cut back on community center hours. Basic hours are now Monday through Friday, 1 to 9 p.m. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Centers scheduled six additional “flexible” hours, depending on program needs, mostly on weekend mornings. See chart below for new hours.

COMMUNITY CENTER	EARLY OPENINGS/FLEXIBLE HOURS	OTHER WEEKDAYS 1-9	SATURDAYS 10-5	SUNDAYS 12-5 IF OPEN
Alki	11a.m. - 9p.m. M, W, F		OPEN	
Ballard	11 - 9 M, W, F		OPEN	
Bitter Lake	11 - 9 W, Th, F		OPEN	
Delridge	11 - 9 T, W, Th		OPEN	
Garfield	10 - 9 T, Th		OPEN	OPEN
Green Lake	11 - 9 T, W, Th		OPEN	OPEN
Hiawatha	10 - 9 W, F		OPEN	OPEN
Jefferson	10 - 9 T, Th		OPEN	
Laurelhurst	11 - 9 M, W, F		OPEN	
Loyal Heights	10 - 9 W, F		OPEN	
Magnolia	10 - 9 W. Th		OPEN	
Meadowbrook	10 - 9 T, Th		OPEN	
Miller	10 - 9 T, Th		OPEN	OPEN
Montlake	11 - 9 M, W, F		OPEN	
Queen Anne	10 - 9 W, Th		OPEN	
Rainier	11 - 9 T, W, Th		OPEN	
Rainier Beach	11 - 9 M W F		OPEN	OPEN
Ravenna-Eckstein	10 - 9 M, W		OPEN	
South Park	12 - 9 M, T, W, Th; 12 - 10 F	NA	OPEN	
Southwest	10 - 9 M, W		OPEN	
Van Asselt	11 - 9 M, W, F		OPEN	
Yesler	10 - 9 T, Th		OPEN	
High Point	Closed for construction			
Garfield Teen Life Center	2 - 9 M, T, W, Th; 2 - 12 midnight F	NA	8p.m. to Midnight	

About The Associated Recreation Council

The Associated Recreation Council or ARC is an independent 501 (3) not-for-profit corporation dedicated to serving Seattle’s recreational community with citywide fiscal accountability, advisory council support, community-focused leadership, fund-raising services, education and policy direction.

ARC is comprised of a 15-member volunteer Board of Directors with advisory council representatives and at-large members, an Executive Director, and staff that handle all financial activity and record keeping for the 37 member advisory councils.

For more information, please visit the web site www.cityofseattle.net/parks/arc or call (206) 684-7083.

Partnerships for Teen Programs

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will commit to teaching or leading a particular program for a year. The intent is to “seed” and nurture these programs; once they become stronger and more successful, we can seek long-term support from advisory councils or other community partners.

Life skills include basic civics, leadership skills, teamwork, cooking, job readiness and more. Health and fitness training focuses on exercise, stretching, nutrition and weight room use. Environmental stewardship involves park restoration, wilderness experience and environmental education.

New Format for Newsletter

Look for a new and expanded format for Connections newsletter starting this spring. We want to keep to you better informed about advisory council issues and programs.

Credits
Jackie Ramels, ARC Board President; David Takami, Editor; Margarite Hargrave, Designer.
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